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CHANGES IN GDR PEOPLE'S FOLICE AFTER 1951 SOVIET-STYLE REORGANIZATION

The VF (People's Police), Soviet Zone Germany, was reorganized according to Soviet pattern during the first half of 1951. Important changes have resulted from this reorganization.

The previous subdivisions of the VP, the Bereitschaften (Alert Units), were reinforced and given the new designation of VPD (People's Police Headquarters). The so-called Dientstellen der Volkspolizei (Headquarters of the People's Police) also remain in existence. These are the normal police units, such as the Gewerbe Polizei (Industrial Police), the Verwaltungspolizei (Administrative Police), the Sittenpolizei (Vice Squads), and the Kriminal Polizei (Criminal

The new VPD have an authorized strength of 2,400 men each. They consist of mixed combat units which have absorbed the previous special Bereitschaften of the VP, such as the artillery units and the engineer units. It is the aim of the VP to organize mobile combat units armed with all types of weapons, similar in strength and armament to a Soviet mechanized regiment. All VP members are required to learn Russian, and are obliged to salute Soviet officers.

Training, too, is being conducted strictly along Soviet lines. The hattle of Orel is cited as the perfect example of the technique of attack. Daily drill in Soviet close-combat techniques is carried out. As for defensive techniques, the VP units are being familiarized with the soviet triple-trench technique and with mined pits, and are constantly reminded that the infantry is the core of the armed forces for which the other units serve merely as supporting units.

The VP will assume a more pronounced military character as a result of the reorganization. For example, the VPD will have it: own supply and judicial systems. The former central supply depot in Berlin-Friedrichsfelde will be broken up into four supply depots which will be located in the Laender of the Soviet Zone. Every VPD has been assigned a staff liaison officer who will

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serve as intermediary between the VPD and the State Security Service. These liaison officers are required to attend monthly meetings at Soviet head-quarters at Miemegk. One liaison officer has also been assigned to every VPD command, to act as contact with Soviet headquarters, and a chief liaison officer (Sovietnik) for all VPD is to serve as liaison officer between the VP and the Soviet authorities and Soviet army.

In connection with this reorganization, increased stress is being laid on political supervision and training of VP members. Under intensified security regulations, the men are not allowed to own personal property, such as books, clothing, etc. They are forbidden to leave the post during off-duty hours, and are granted no furloughs. There is a tendency gradually to discharge those members of the VP who have been with the organization since its inception. They will be replaced by young and fanatical members of the Free German Youth, who will also fill high-ranking posts in the VP military units. These men will be trained at the Soviet military academy at Volsk, near Saratov. There are always from 100 to 150 VP officers attending the academy. The courses generally last 6 months.

The regular police will be given a brief period of training according to the former German Kruemper System a rotation system of training set up by Scharnhorst to build up a large pool of trained men in Germany; it was in effect from 1809 to 1813, when Germany was permitted to have no more than 42,000 men under arms at any given time, after which they are to return to duty with their regular units. The same procedure is planned for the male members of the Free German Youth. The HVA (Main Administration for Training) maintains a register of young men in 1930 - 1934 classes, which contains the names of some 500,000 men, a portion of whom will receive military training with the VP.

In the future, groups of men from the Border Police also will be given strictly military training in the VPD. The Transportation Police has been taken out of the purview of the railroad administration and placed under the Jurisdiction of the Main Administration for the VP and the HVA.

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